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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/521,056	02/10/2005	Toshichika Urushibara	450100-04731	8440

7590 01/23/2009
William S Frommer
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EXAMINER

HALEY, JOSEPH R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2627

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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01/23/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/521,056	Applicant(s) URUSHIBARA ET AL.	
	Examiner JOSEPH HALEY	Art Unit 2627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/14/08.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 November 2008 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 3-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applicant's admitted prior art in view of Bradford et al. (US 5956745).

In regard to claims 1, 7 and 8 the applicant's admitted prior art teaches reading means for reading a segment table from the information-recording medium according to the control information (it is inherent there is reading means); maintaining means for maintaining the table read by the reading means (paragraph 26 the applicant's admitted prior art teaches an embedded memory); recording means for referring to the table maintained by the maintaining means to detect free unit recording areas in the information-recording medium (paragraph 14), and recording the data files in the detected unit recording areas; updating means for updating the table maintained by the maintaining means (paragraph 24), in response to the process of the recording means; and overwriting means for partially overwriting the FAT in the information-recording medium with the updated table (paragraph 22) but does not teach creating means for dividing a FAT in the information- recording medium into a plurality of segment tables of a predetermined size and creating control information corresponding to each of the segment tables and wherein the control information includes at least one of information

for identifying the corresponding segment table, the number of the free unit recording areas indicated by the segment table, the total capacity of the free unit areas, the address of the first free unit recording area indicated by the segment table, and a flag for specifying whether or not the corresponding segment table is to be read at the time of recording the data files.

Bradford et al. teaches creating means for dividing a management table in the information recording medium into a plurality of segment tables of a predetermined size and creating control information corresponding to each of the segment tables (see figs. 6G-6I where Bradford et al. teaches dividing a sub-allocation table into different size blocks) and wherein the control information includes at least one of information for identifying the corresponding segment table, the number of the free unit recording areas indicated by the segment table (figs. 6g-6l. There must be control information that indicates the number of units in the suballocation table. The claim only requires one control information as claimed above), the total capacity of the free unit areas, the address of the first free unit recording area indicated by the segment table, and a flag for specifying whether or not the corresponding segment table is to be read at the time of recording the data files.

The two are analogous art because they both deal with the same field of invention of managing information on a media.

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the apparatus of the applicant's admitted prior art with the dividing means of Bradford et al. The rationale is as follows: At the time of invention it would have been

obvious to provide the apparatus of the applicant's admitted prior art with the dividing means of Bradford et al. because it would allow for the control of more files in an allocation table.

In regard to claim 3, the applicant's admitted prior art teaches wherein the information-recording medium is removable (paragraph 29).

In regard to claim 4, the applicant's admitted prior art teaches a microdrive (paragraph 29).

In regard to claim 5, the applicant's admitted prior art teaches wherein the size of the table is determined according to the capacity of the maintaining means (paragraphs 26 and 27).

In regard to claim 6, Bradford et al. teaches the overwriting means writes the entire table, including non-updated sections, over the corresponding part of the FAT recorded in the information- recording medium (fig. 11A see step 1116 where Bradford et al. teaches modifying the bitmaps to indicate the change).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOSEPH HALEY whose telephone number is (571)272-0574. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on 571-272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Joseph H. Feild/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 2627

/Joseph Haley/
Examiner, Art Unit 2627

Application Number 	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent under Reexamination	
	10/521,056	URUSHIBARA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JOSEPH HALEY	2627	